

FLEETS AND FORTS ENGAGE IN BATTLE ON SEA

RUSSIAN STORY OF BATTLE IS TOLD

Japanese Squadron Consisted of Fifteen Vessels and Opened Fire on the Works at Port Arthur.

Entire Russian Fleet and Shore Batteries Replied and Fight Lasted an Hour.

THREE VESSELS DAMAGED

Battleships and Two Cruisers Struck by Jap Shells—Russians Lose Ten Killed and Fifty-four Wounded.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10, 1 a. m.—The following official bulletin has just been issued by Viceroy Alexieff's chief of staff, dated February 9:

"By order of the viceroy, I beg to report that today, at about 11 a. m., the Japanese squadron, consisting of about 15 battleships and cruisers, approached Port Arthur and opened fire. The enemy was received with cannonade from the shore batteries and the guns of our squadron, which also participated in the engagement.

"At midday the Japanese squadron ceased its fire and left, proceeding south.

"Our losses in the fleet were two officers wounded, nine men killed and 51 men wounded. The battleship Poltava and the cruiser Novik each had a hole knocked in her side below the water line. The forts were slightly damaged. MAJOR-GENERAL FLUG."

Three Vessels Damaged.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10, 6:20 a. m.—A second telegram has been received from Viceroy Alexieff, dated February 9, in which he says:

"A Japanese squadron of 15 battleships and cruisers today began to bombard Port Arthur. The forts replied, and the squadron weighed anchor in order to participate in the battle."

A third telegram from the viceroy says that after a bombardment lasting one hour, the Japanese squadron ceased its fire and steamed southward.

"Our losses," the viceroy continues, "are two naval men and 51 men wounded and nine men killed, and one coast batteries one man killed and three wounded. During the engagement the battleships Poltava and the cruisers Diana, Askold and Novik were each damaged on the water line. The damage to the fortress was not important."

Extent of the Damage.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.—Admiral Alexieff, amplifying his first telegram to czar on the torpedo boat action, now telegraphs as follows:

"I most humbly report to your imperial majesty that the three injured vessels were not sunk, nor were their boilers or engines damaged. The Czarevitch received a hole in her steering department and her rudder was damaged; the Retvizia was damaged in her pumping apparatus under the water line, and the Pallada was injured amidships, not far from her engines."

SEN FULTON ADDRESSES SENATE

Speaks of Course of Administration Relative to Panama.

Washington, Feb. 9.—The senate today passed the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill without discussion, and then renewed consideration of the isthmian question. Fulton, of Oregon, spoke of the course of the administration in connection with the Panama revolt, and Carmack and Overman in opposition thereto. Overman had not hitherto made his position of the treaty known and his speech revealed the attitude of probably the last doubtful member of the senate.

Buchanan to Resign.

New York, Feb. 9.—W. I. Buchanan, United States minister to Panama, arrived today from Colon. Mr. Buchanan said he would probably not return to Panama as the representative of this country.

Mrs. Mary Abbott Dead.

Chicago, Feb. 9.—Mrs. Mary Abbott, for many years literary editor of the Chicago Herald and later with the Chicago Times-Herald, died today in Florida. She was the mother of Mrs. Peter Dunne.

FORCES OF RUSSIA ARE CAUGHT UNAWARES BY DOUGHTY ORIENTAL ENEMY

Torpedo Boats Begin Conflict By Springing Attack—Cruisers Circle About Fleet and Cannonading Begins.

Few of the Japanese Shells Are Effective, and Three of Russia's Ship Are Damaged—After Spirited Contest, Japanese Vessels Sail Away After Following the Enemy for a Short Time.

London, Feb. 10.—In a dispatch from Tien Tsin, dated February 9, the correspondent of the Daily Mail says it is reported that the Russian cruisers Variaz and Korietz hauled down their flags without firing a shot and that 8,000 Japanese immediately landed at Chemulpo and the march to Seoul commenced. It was reported that Japanese troops also landed at all the chief points of southern and western Korea. One division of Japanese guards, holds Fusan and Chemulpo, and altogether three divisions of Japanese guards each of 12,000, have been mobilized. Another regular correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphs from Port Arthur under date of February 9, that General Krastalinsky will leave Liaoyang tomorrow for Yalu river, at the head of the Third brigade of artillery, consisting of 24 guns and three regiments of infantry.

NARROW ESCAPE OF STEAMER.

Shells Fall on Board Britisher and Flag is Torn.

Chefoo, Feb. 9.—The British steamer Columbia, which arrived here today from Port Arthur, brings news of the attack by the Japanese fleet upon the Russian fleet and reports that the Columbia had a narrow escape from injury. Her passengers and crew were very much excited in regard to her dangerous position. While going out of the roads at Port Arthur the Russian cruiser Noyk got between the Columbia and the Japanese fleet. Shells which passed over the Novik struck around the Columbia. Her flag was cut into splinters and one shell fell on her deck. The faces of those who were on deck was blackened with powder smoke.

A naval officer, who was recently at Port Arthur, says the Russians were not prepared for the attack on their ships and had an insufficient amount of steam up. A boat patrolled the straits of Pe Chi Li continuously, but apparently the Japanese torpedo boats were not noticed until after the first torpedo was fired. The Russians fired, but the Japanese did not return the fire, and backed off. An hour later the discharge of torpedoes was repeated, after which the torpedo boats withdrew some distance.

At 10 o'clock Tuesday morning the Japanese fast cruisers circled within view of the whole Russian fleet, but they were not engaged. The Russians returned towards the harbor after half an hour. The Japanese continued firing and came within three miles. The battle then began, the Russian forts and fourteen ships against 16 Japanese vessels. A few of the Japanese shells were effective, but as far as seen the Russian shots fell short. The Japanese fleet was steaming towards Dalny when last seen.

OUR GOVERNMENT STEPS IN.

Issues Note Demanding Chinese Neutrality Be Recognized.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Secretary Hay has addressed an identical note to a number of European powers to ascertain if they are willing to join in a notice to Russia and Japan that during hostilities and thereafter the neutrality

and integrity of China must be recognized.

Details of the note are not obtainable in advance of the receipt of replies. It is known, however, that exchanges already have taken place which justify the state department in expecting favorable responses to its note.

The matter has created a great sensation in diplomatic circles here.

It is further learned that the proposition of the United States contemplates a restriction of hostilities and the consequent hardships of war to the smallest possible area. Just what this means is not made clear to the public, but the determination may have the greatest effect upon the struggle between Russia and Japan. It is almost certain that neither will be allowed to invade China proper, meaning by that that they may not with hostile intent go southward below Shan Hai Kwan, on the border line between Chi Li and Manchuria.

It is a question whether or not it will apply also to Korea, which is striving desperately to preserve neutrality and prevent invasion; but the general opinion is that it is too late in that case to do more than seek to preserve Korean independence after the war.

No explanation is accorded as to whether Manchuria itself, already the scene of the first battle off Port Arthur, is being part of China, regarded as being within the scope of the proposition; but here, as in the case of Korea, it is believed that the determination will not be reached before the close of the war. The exchanges referred to as preliminary to the issue of the note, have been going on for several weeks, in anticipation of an outbreak of hostilities.

It was at first supposed that the intention was to do no more than to maintain the open door in Manchuria, but it is apparent that there is a deeper purpose, and that from the original thought the proposition has grown into one that will conserve the territorial integrity of China. It is pointed out that some such outcome followed the Sino-Japanese war, so after all the present action is in line with precedent.

Announcement may be expected from the state department, probably tomorrow, of the hearty endorsement by the European powers of the note of Secretary Hay. A satisfactory number of governments already have been heard from, including Great Britain, to insure the success of Secretary Hay's latest diplomatic move. Japan, it can be stated on the highest authority, welcomes the action, and the state department feels confident the representations of this government will be received with favor at St. Petersburg.

Russia Wants Intervention.

London, Feb. 9.—The Japanese minister, Baron Hayashi, said this afternoon:

"Russia is making desperate efforts, through the various embassies, to have the powers intervene. Russia is now willing to concede everything, but the offer comes too late."

Baron Hayashi added: "I learn on good authority that the reply Russia intended to send merely reiterated all the cardinal points to which Japan consistently objected." Baron Hayashi informed the Associated Press today that he had received this morning a cable dispatch announcing

the departure of the Japanese fleet for the Yellow sea. While he had no news of the engagement off Port Arthur, the minister was aware that the Japanese intended throughout this war to employ torpedo boats to the fullest extent. He had not heard of the landing of Japanese troops in Korea.

Praying For Russian Victory.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—The imperial ball, which was to have been held this evening, has been cancelled. At 2 o'clock this afternoon, the imperial court and all functionaries will attend a solemn te deum to pray for victory for the Russian arms.

Japanese Infantry Landed.

Rome, Feb. 9.—Official advices received here from Tokio say that four battalions of Japanese infantry have landed in Korea, near Seoul.

FOURTEEN KILLED IN WRECK.

Eastbound and Westbound Trains Are Wrecked by Collision.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 9.—Fourteen persons were killed and more than a score injured in collision between two passenger trains on the Canadian Pacific near Sand Point today. The trains in collision were the eastbound and westbound "Soo" specials. Both trains were under orders to stop at Sand Point and pass through. The Canadian Pacific places the responsibility on the crew of the westbound train.

Question of Unseating Democrats.

Washington, Feb. 9.—The house devoted the entire session today to a consideration of the resolution reported from election committee No. 3, unseating Mr. Howell, democrat, and declaring Mr. Connell, republican, who contested the election, to have been elected from the Tenth Pennsylvania district. By agreement the vote will be taken at 3 p. m. tomorrow.

Hanna is Better.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Senator Hanna was better today and tonight he is represented to be resting quietly. There are no complications and the vital organs are said to be performing their functions satisfactorily. An increased amount of nourishment was given to the senator today.

Three Cars Leave Track.

Denver, Feb. 9.—A News special from Evanston, Wyo., says the eastbound overland on the Union Pacific Three rear cars left the track. So far as known no one was hurt. Surgeons have gone to the scene of the wreck.

ENGLISH HAPPY AT JAPAN'S VICTORY

London Papers Express Gratification Because of Unexpected Catastrophe to the Russian Fleet.

Impression is General That Alexieff Has Concealed Extent of Damage Wrought.

GERMANS ARE ALSO PLEASED

French, However, Are Downcast Over the Reverse—Paris Government Will Remain Strictly Neutral

London, Feb. 10.—The dispatch from Major-General Flug has not yet reached the English newspapers, and the various accounts of the Port Arthur fight published this morning leave much to be desired on the point of exactitude. It is the general opinion of the British press, however, that Viceroy Alexieff's dispatches conceal the extent of the damage the Japanese onset inflicted and that when the actual facts become known, it will be seen that the Japanese, by her pluck and energy, has practically secured command of the sea.

All the daily papers express the greatest satisfaction at the catastrophe and the unexpected initial success on the part of the Japanese.

Pleases the Germans.

Berlin, Feb. 9.—Japan's initial success in the first attack with torpedo boats on the Russian fleet off Port Arthur produced a deep impression both on the people and military and naval critics here. Groups gathered around the distributors of the extras in the streets and read the news almost with exclamations of gladness.

The comment at the marine department was that even the temporary disablement of three warships placed the Russians at a great disadvantage in future operations. It was added that the torpedoing of the enemy's vessels

(Continued on page eight.)

20 PER CENT REDUCTION

On Clothing, Furnishing Goods, Hats, Shoes, Etc.

Excepting only Dunlap Hats, E. & W. Collars, Oil and Rubber Goods and Dents Gloves.

THIS MEANS A GREAT SACRIFICE as our goods are sold on very close margins.

SALE COMMENCES

Monday, January 4, 1904.

P. A. STOKES



DECORATING

The quiet, artistic beauty of any home is easily marred by lack of taste in wall decorations. We wish to state that the New Year will find us in a better position to do decorating than ever before. New patterns are beginning to arrive, and all we ask is that you favor us with an opportunity to show you the line.

B. F. ALLEN & SON.
365-7 Commercial Street.

Valentines

J. N. Griffin

Groceries, Hardware, Ship Chandelery, Paints, Oil and Glass—Hardwood Lumber Boat Supplies etc. 

AT

FISHER BROTHERS

Cor. Bond and 12th Sts. Astoria, Oregon